



NEWS RELEASE

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Marshall County Housing Grant Approved By USDA Rural Development

Multi-County Area To Be Considered For USDA Housing Program

Topeka, KS. – USDA Rural Development announced today that the Marshall County Community Resource & Education Center has been approved for a \$10,000 grant to evaluate the region's affordable housing needs. The Marshall County Community Resource & Education Center, a Marysville-based nonprofit, made application for the USDA grant as part of the process to be considered for participation in USDA Rural Development's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program*.

In today's grant funding announcement, USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks commented, "This grant will allow the Marshall County Community Resource & Education Center and the Agency the opportunity to study the needs and options to improve affordable housing for this area of Kansas. USDA Rural Development has a long history of providing funding assistance to improve affordable housing opportunities, and the Agency will continue to provide funding and technical assistance support to achieve this important goal through the *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* and *Single-Family Housing Loan Program*.

Under the USDA Rural Development *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program*, eligible participants are required to personally supply approximately 65% of the labor to construct their home. With the assistance of four Kansas non-profit housing partners, USDA Rural Development's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* has resulted in the construction of nearly 200 new single-family homes across the State. Individuals interested in learning more about the *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* may contact USDA Rural Development's Oskaloosa office at 785-863-2221.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life of rural Americans. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. During Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development delivered nearly \$235 million in community and economic development programming benefiting Kansas. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development and its programs, log onto the Agency's website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks or call the Agency's state office at 785-271-2700.

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